

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 11595 140829Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02  
OMB-01 GSA-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FEA-01  
INT-05 OES-06 /052 W

----- 121730 /21

R 131620Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 11595

DEPT PASS COMMERCE AND MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EMIN, IV  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN  
DEVELOPMENT OF IVORY COAST NICKEL DEPOSITS

1. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1976, REPRESENTATIVES OF  
FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES LTD. OF CANADA (INCLUDING  
VICE PRESIDENT G.P. MITCHELL) AND OF THE SOCIETE POUR  
LE DEVELOPPEMENT MINIER DE LA COTE D'IVOIRE (SODEMI)  
MET IN ABIDJAN TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF FALCONBRIDGE  
PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPLOITATION OF NICKEL DEPOSITS IN  
THE BIANKOUMA DISTRICT (AT SIPILOU, FOUNGOUESSO, AND  
MOYANGO).

2. ALTHOUGH PARTICIPATION IS STILL  
AT THE DISCUSSION STAGE, IT APPEARS THAT FALCONBRIDGE HAS  
DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT THE BIANKOUMA DEPOSITS CAN BE PROFITABLY  
EXPLOITED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FALCONBRIDGE  
WILL SEEK INTERNATIONAL FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT.  
PROBABLY IN THE U.S. AND SWITZERLAND AND POSSIBLY IN  
FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND SWEDEN. FALCONBRIDGE,  
HOWEVER, DOES NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO A JOINT EXPLOIT-  
ATION AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD OBLIGE THE COMPANY TO  
SHARE ITS TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER PRODUCERS,  
ALTHOUGH EVENTUAL COLLABORATION WITH AN IVORIAN  
"SOCIETE" IS FORESEEN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 11595 140829Z

3. IN 1975, SODEMI UNDERTOOK AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF

NICKEL DEPOSITS IN THE BIANKOUA DISTRICT WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

MOYANGO-LEFOI: APPROXIMATELY 15 MILLION TONS OF HIGH-GRADE, EASILY EXPLOITABLE ORE;

SIPILOU: 23 BORE HOLES WERE UNDERTAKEN UNDER DIFFICULT TECHNICAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING WATER INJECTION TO CUT THROUGH OVERLAYING SILICA DEPOSITS AND THE NECESSITY TO LIMIT BORE-HOLE DEPTHS. CONCLUSIONS WERE THAT NICKEL DEPOSITS WERE TOO LOW-GRADE TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC INTEREST BUT THAT THE ESTIMATED 200-250 MILLION TONS OF LATERITE ORE AND 80-100 MILLION TONS OF MAGNESIUM ORE IN THE SURVEY AREA MAY LEAD TO FUTURE EXPLOITATION.

FOUNGOUESSO: BECAUSE OF SIPILOU TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, ONLY THREE OF TEN PLANNED BORE-HOLES WERE EXECUTED. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES WERE THAT THE FOUNGOUESSO DEPOSITS WERE ON A PAR WITH THOSE AT MOYANGO-LEFOI.

4. SODEMI PLANS FOR 1976 WERE TO CARRY OUT MORE DETAILED SURVEYS OF THE MOYANGO AND FOUNGOUESSO DEPOSITS, WITH A QUICK START ON EXPLOITATION IF JOINT RESERVES PROVED TO BE 30 MILLION TONS MINIMUM. RESULTS OF THESE SURVEYS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, BUT WE ASSUME FROM FALCONBRIDGE INTEREST THAT PREVIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THE PROFITABILITY OF EXPLOITATION HAVE BEEN OVERCOME.  
STEARNS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, NICKEL, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, MINING INDUSTRY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ABIDJA11595  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760460-0101  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761246/aaaabnwd.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by schwenja>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF IVORY COAST NICKEL DEPOSITS  
**TAGS:** EMIN, IV, CA  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC OTTAWA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006